

FLOW RATE TEST APPARATUS AND METHOD

5

Abstract of the Disclosure

10

15

Method and apparatus for performing a leak rate test on a device under test (DUT), such as a data storage device housing. A flow meter determines a flow rate for a flow of pressurized fluid. A conduit provides a first portion of the fluid from the flow meter to the DUT, and a bleed orifice removes a second portion of the fluid from the conduit at a selected removal rate. A leak rate for the DUT is obtained in relation to the determined flow rate and the selected removal rate. The bleed orifice raises the determined flow rate through the flow meter to a mid-range value, allowing quick and efficient flow rate testing including for relatively low specified leak rates. A regulator establishes the flow of pressurized fluid and preferably utilizes a variable orifice size to reduce flow oscillations in the pressurized fluid.